

SECTION ONE

Know Your Waste and Recyclables

What's Expected

In order to have a successful recycling program, you need to know:

- ♻️ What types of recyclable materials your residents generate.
- ♻️ How much you can expect to recycle.
- ♻️ How much storage you need for recyclables.
- ♻️ How you can prevent waste.

This section will show you how to perform a waste audit, relying on information you collect and estimates from your waste collector and County staff.

Perform a Waste Assessment

Start by taking a close look at the waste your property generates. Remember that Montgomery County requires that you recycle the following materials:

- ♻️ Mixed paper, cardboard, including stationery, newspapers, inserts, unsolicited mail, telephone books, magazines, catalogs, and all other clean, dry paper.
- ♻️ Aluminum and steel/tin food and beverage cans and aluminum foil products.
- ♻️ Plastic bottles with necks.
- ♻️ Glass bottles and jars.
- ♻️ Yard trimmings (grass, leaves, brush, and Christmas trees).
- ♻️ Scrap metal items (including old appliances).

Additional materials may be added to this list in the future, so it is important that you stay informed.

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Know Your Peak Waste Generation Periods

In order to plan a collection schedule, you also need to consider when waste is generated. If residents tend to generate more trash on weekends—a common trend—you can assume they will also generate more recyclables on weekends. In this case, scheduling your collection on Monday or Tuesday will be better than later in the week. Keep in mind that during certain times of the year, such as holidays, residents' waste generation tends to peak.

Talk to Your Waste Collector

Whether your program is new or ongoing, your waste collector is a good source for information about your waste stream. Your collector can help estimate the amount of material you can expect to collect each week for recycling, based on the amount of trash your property generates. If your recycling program is in place, be sure to stay in regular contact with your waste and recycling collector. Your collector(s) may be able to suggest other materials to recycle and ways to improve your program to maximize diversion. (See **Contract for Collection and Marketing Your Recyclables** (pages 15–19) for more information.)

Don't Trash Yard Trimmings

The County has banned disposal of yard trimmings (leaves, grass and brush) in trash. Yard trimmings must be grasscycled, composted on-site, or recycled. The preferred method is to recycle most of your trimmings right on your property.

You can grasscycle grass clippings by leaving them on the lawn and compost leaves. Or, you can contract with your landscaper to recycle yard trimmings at another location. The County Recycling Center accepts all yard trimmings, including brush, for recycling. Call **(240) 777-6400** or **(301) 417-1433** for more information.

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WORKSHEET FOR ESTIMATING RECYCLABLE QUANTITIES									
RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	AVERAGE AMOUNT GENERATED (LBS/UNIT/WK)		#UNITS		LBS/WEEK		ESTIMATED DENSITY (LBS/CU.YD)		CU. YDS. ¹ = STORAGE REQUIRED/WK
Newspapers (Loose)	3.3	x	_____	=	_____	÷	400	=	_____
Cardboard (Loose)	0.1	x	_____	=	_____	÷	75	=	_____
Mixed paper ²	3.3	x	_____	=	_____	÷	400	=	_____
Aluminum Cans (Whole)	0.1	x	_____	=	_____	÷	74	=	_____
Glass Bottles & Jars (Whole)	0.9	x	_____	=	_____	÷	550	=	_____
Plastic Bottles (Loose)	0.2	x	_____	=	_____	÷	30	=	_____
Steel/Tin Cans (Loose)	0.2	x	_____	=	_____	÷	150	=	_____
Commingled ³ Containers	1.4	x	_____	=	_____	÷	160	=	_____
<p>These conversion factors represent most frequently reported estimates from various sources.</p> <p>Estimates for your property may vary, depending on the demographics of your residents, the particular mix of materials or method of storage, time of year, and the type of resident education you use.</p> <p>¹ A 90-gallon container is approximately equal to one-half a cubic yard.</p> <p>² Cardboard, stationery, newspapers, inserts, unsolicited mail, telephone books, magazines, catalogs, and all other clean, dry paper.</p> <p>³ Aluminum cans, glass/plastic bottles and jars, and steel/tin cans.</p>									